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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Richard Lehman

SUBJECT: NIB

1. I was struck this morning by the bulk of the NIB. Since the "charter" of this publication encourages slenderness, and since DIA is making proposals which could have the effect of adding fat, I am moved to comment.

2. The 30 October NIB contains 18 articles, two items in For the Record, and 22 pages. I would say (on the basis of some decidedly unscientific rumination) that two articles (the one on [redacted] could easily have been eliminated or, at best, might qualify as candidates for a military supplement. Four articles (South Vietnam infiltration, Chinese [redacted] have made decent items For the Record. Of the two items in For the Record, the one on the USSR is quite specialized, and the other, on [redacted], seems marginal because it is probably premature (in terms of reader interest).

One can certainly quarrel with these judgments. But the point is that the book was inflated (and, excluding Saturday and Monday editions, the NIB has been averaging about 17 pages during October). I only urge you when you get a chance to take a look and perhaps counsel your editors to that effect. Inter alia, I see no point in providing ammunition to anyone who might seek to force specialized military articles into the main body of the publication.

[redacted]
Chief, PRD/IC

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